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**PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT**

**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER**

**NEW ACTIVITY POSSIBLY
ASSOCIATED WITH THE SS-X-16
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, PLESETSK
MISSILE/SPACE TEST CENTER
SSM, USSR**

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NEW ACTIVITY POSSIBLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE SS-X-16 DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
PLESETSK MISSILE/SPACE TEST CENTER SSM, USSR

ABSTRACT

1. Repetitive coverage over the Plesetsk Missile/Space Test Center SSM during the months of June and July 1974 has provided additional information on the camouflage and/or concealment activity, which may be part of a mobile SS-X-16 development effort. Additionally, two areas of newly constructed revetments were seen at an abandoned sod airfield near launch site 16.

2. [REDACTED] A map of the Plesetsk center shows the relative locations where camouflage and/or concealment has been seen; the report also includes six annotated photographs and a table containing all dates of coverage over these areas of camouflage and/or concealment activity.

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INTRODUCTION

3. The SS-X-16 missile has been undergoing research and development (R&D) at the Plesetsk Missile/Space Test Center SSM (PMSTC) since March 1972. This three-stage solid-propellant missile is probably being tested for deployment in a mobile mode and, if so, would be the second mobile missile system to have been tested at the PMSTC. The first system, the SS-X-15, was tested through the summer of 1969 at launch sites 16 and 21. Between the discontinuance of the SS-X-15 program in August 1969 and the first reported launch of the SS-X-16 in March 1972, changes were observed at the two SS-X-15-associated launch sites and at launch site 5, an SS-7 launch site. An extension was added to the eastern launch pads at launch sites 16 and 21, and launch site 5 underwent a reduced state of readiness which included the removal of the erectors and the propellant tanks. For information on camouflage activity previously observed at the center see NPIC [REDACTED]

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BASIC DESCRIPTION

4. New camouflage and/or concealment activity and revetment construction seen during the months of June and July occurred near launch sites 5, 13, 16, and in the SS-X-16 missile receiving and checkout area of the missile handling facility (Figure 1 and Table 1).

Launch Site 5

5. At ICBM Launch Test Site 5 [REDACTED] which is believed to be associated with the R&D of the SS-X-16 missile system, concealment activity was observed [REDACTED]

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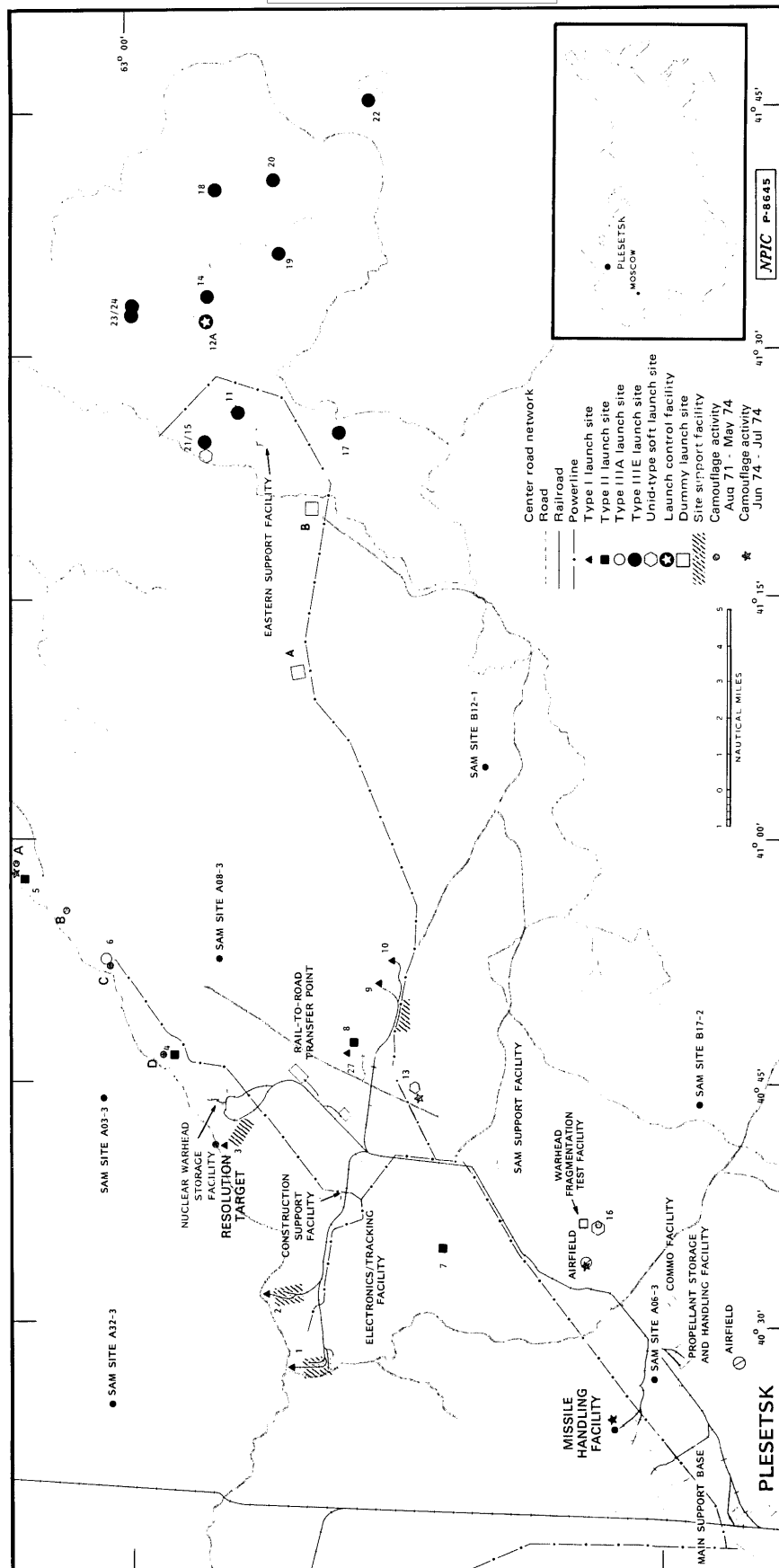


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF RECENT CAMOUFLAGE AND/OR CONCEALMENT ACTIVITY AT THE PLESETSK MISSILE/SPACE TEST CENTER SSM, USSR

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Table 1. Chronology of Activity Possibly Associated with Mobile SS-X-16 Development During June and July 1974

Launch Site 5	Near Launch Site 13	Near Launch Site 16	Missile Handling Facility	Launch Site 5	Near Launch Site 13	Near Launch Site 16	Missile Handling Facility
3 small tents	NC	NC	No c/c P	IDO	NC	IDO	NC
NC	NC	CC	No c/c P	No c/c P	NC	NC	NC
CC	NC	CC	NC	No c/c P	Vehicles	Area R1	NAC
3 small tents	NC	CC	IDO		removed	prob complete	
3 small tents removed	NC	5 camouflaged vehicles	NC	No c/c P	No c/c P	NAC	NAC
NC	NC	NAC	NC	NC	NC	CC	NC
Netting	No c/c P	NAC	Net-covered MAZ-543	CC	NC	NAC	NC
Netting	No c/c P	NC	NC	4 vehicles near Area A	No c/c P	NAC	NC
CC	NC	CC	NC	Vehicles	No c/c P	3 revetments	NAC
CC	CC	CC	CC	removed		bulldozed over	
Netting removed	NC	NC	NC	NAC	NC	NAC	NC
CC	NC	NC	NC	CC	CC	CC	NC
Netting	4 camouflaged vehicles	Vehicles removed	NAC	CC	NC	Area R2	
Netting	CC	CC	NAC			present-- camouflaged vehicle nearby	
NC	NC	NC	NAC	No c/c P	No c/c P	NAC	MAZ-543 removed
NC	NC	No c/c P	NC	No c/c P	No c/c P	NC	IDO
Netting removed	NAC	No c/c P	NAC	No c/c P	No c/c P	NAC	No c/c P
NC	5 camouflaged vehicles	NC	NAC	No c/c P	No c/c P	Vehicle removed	No c/c P
NC	CC	NC	NC				
Netting	NC	No c/c P	NC				
Netting removed	NC	CC	NC				

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No c/c P No camouflage/concealment activity present
NC Not covered
CC Cloud covered
NAC No apparent change from previous activity
IDO Identifiable only

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Launch Site 16

8. Five heavily camouflaged vehicles were seen approximately 0.6 nm west of ICBM Test Site 16 [redacted] Three of these vehicles are MAZ-543-type vehicles. The remaining two vehicles could not be identified because of the configuration of the canvas/netting over the vehicles; however, measurements of the two vehicles indicate that they are dimensionally the same as the MAZ-543-type vehicle (Figure 4). These vehicles, which were parked in line in the clearing for the former overrun to an abandoned sod airfield, were not present on [redacted] and had been moved [redacted]

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Launch Site 13

9. [redacted] at least four heavily camouflaged vehicles parked in line 0.3 nm southwest of IRBM R&D and Training Launch Site 13 [redacted] were approximately 5.5 nm north-northeast of the former airfield overrun. [redacted] four camouflaged vehicles were still discernible, and [redacted] a fifth vehicle was seen in the clearing. These five vehicles are probably the same as those five vehicles seen near launch site 16. The five vehicles had been moved from this clearing near site 13 [redacted] The turning radii of the vehicle trackage made by three of the vehicles discernible [redacted]

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10. [redacted] approximately 3,000 yards southwest of the sod airfield overrun at 62-47-32N 040-34-00E, a large drive-through revetment and seven drive-in revetments had been constructed since [redacted] This area, arbitrarily designated R1, may be the first observed PI signature for a mobile ICBM field site. The drive-through revetment is approximately 270 feet long, [redacted]

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[redacted] the three drive-in revetments immediately south of the large drive-through revetment had been bulldozed over.

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11. [] a second area of revetment construction (designated R2) was identified approximately 0.5 nm northwest of R1 at 62-48-03N 040-33-09E (Figure 7). This activity was not [] This area also contains one long drive-through revetment approximately 325 feet long [] Seven drive-in revetments similar to the ones at area R1 had also been constructed in the immediate area.

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12. [] a canvas and/or net-covered vehicle similar in appearance to the five vehicles seen near launch site 13 [] was parked on an unimproved road approximately 0.3 nm south of area R2. This vehicle was also present [] and was not present []

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Missile Handling Facility

13. In the SS-X-16 missile receiving and checkout area of the missile handling facility [] a net-covered MAZ-543-type vehicle was parked next to a large linear earthen mound [] The net, which was draped over the vehicle, effectively blended the vehicle in with its environment. The vehicle was also present [] however, identification from that coverage would have been difficult. This activity occurred in the same area where three drive-in net/covered tentlike structures have been erected [] One of the three structures was removed [] These structures are probably used to house the MAZ-543-type vehicle, since there is no vehicle storage building in this area of the missile handling facility.

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REFERENCES

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MAPS OR CHARTS

DMA. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheets 0102-9 and 10, scale 1:200,000

DOCUMENT

1. NPIC [] PIR-011/74, *Camouflage Activity Probably Associated with the SS-X-16 Program at Ple-setsk Missile and Space Center, USSR*, Feb 74 (TOP SECRET RUFF) []

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REQUIREMENT

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